

Fort Sumter National Monument 1214 Middle Street Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

843 883-3123 phone 843 883-3910 fax

Fort Sumter News Release

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Bill Martin
Phone number: 843 881-5516

Date: February 13, 2004

Fort Sumter gets new bookstore

On Saturday, February 14 Fort Sumter National Monument will open its doors to the public, unveiling a new bookstore. Over the past several weeks, the store has been closed in order to undergo a major renovation, including a new ceiling and fixtures. The store is operated by Eastern National, a cooperating association of the National Park Service.

"We've needed to make improvements to the store for a long time but couldn't until recently," said Eastern National Unit Manager Kevin Bates. "The store is built inside a concrete gun battery that was constructed in the 1890s. The concrete has always leaked, and we didn't want to do much remodeling for fear of water damage. Last year the park service found a way to seal the concrete over the store."

Eastern National, chartered in 1948, provides quality educational products and services in more than 130 of America's national parks and other public trusts. Proceeds from the sale of books and other educational materials are donated to the parks. Since 1947, Eastern National has donated over \$70.7 million to the National Park Service.

For more information, call the Fort Sumter National Monument at (843) 883-3123.

-NPS-